

**THE OFFICE OF
POSTULATOR GENERAL
OF THE BROTHERS
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
(1/2)**

Brother Leone Morelli

The Postulator General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools is first mentioned in the decree announcing the transfer of the Paris Diocesan process for the Servant of God John Baptist de La Salle to Rome. This stage in the "Cause" of the Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools took place on the 22nd April, 1836, when Gregory XVI was Pope.

● **The first Postulator General was
BROTHER CHRISOLOGUE THIRIOT,**

in whose obituary notice the following words occur: "*Brother Chrisologue, Director of our house of Notre Dame dei Monti in Rome and Postulator to the Holy See for the cause of our venerable founder*". It was he who advanced the introduction of the Cause, and obtained, on 16th February 1847, the Decree concerning the validity of the Process.

He died in Rome on 20th November 1847.

● **The second Postulator to be appointed was
BROTHER EXUPÈRE,**

who was Director of our boarding school in Béziers, when he received orders to go to Rome "as Director of our community of Saint-Antoine, usually known as Madonna dei Monti". He remained there ten years from 1848 to 1858, during a very disturbed if vital period in history, but one during which our Roman establishments enjoyed great prosperity. It was at this time that the French boarding school in Rome was founded, which gained an excellent reputation and which grew in prosperity from year to year. Brother

Philippe was Superior General at the time, and he it was who appointed Brother Exupère as Procurator General as well as provincial visitor of the French establishments in the Papal States. During this period there is no record of progress in the Founder's cause. Brother Exupère left Rome and on his return to France became Director once more, dying in 1878 on the 19th January.

● **The third Postulator was
BROTHER ANACLET, 1818-1870.**

After fourteen years in the community of Passy in France, he was invited to Rome on Christmas day 1856 to become pro-Director of Madonna dei Monti. He later became successively director of that same community, Visitor of the Brothers' French establishments in the Papal States, Procurator General of our Institute to the Holy See and Postulator General for the cause of beatification and canonisation of John Baptist de La Salle. In all these important posts he became much appreciated, not only by the Brothers, but by everyone with whom he came into contact. Pope Pius IX was very fond of him, often inviting him to a private audience. At his request the Pope granted our Institute many precious indulgences and other spiritual benefits.

In Brother Anaclet's obituary notice, Brother Superior General Philippe wrote: "*One will be impressed, but not surprised to learn that, during the whole time that Brother Anaclet was in charge of our venerable founder's cause, he pursued that excellent yet delicate task with every possible prudence, devotedness and hard work. If, before his death, he did not manage to see his wishes fully achieved, we nevertheless cannot deny that it is thanks to his zeal, which was not only remarkably*

active but even extraordinary, that the cause has reached the satisfying level we see it today". It was Brother Anaclet who prepared the "Positio" for the recognition of the heroicity of the virtues of our Founder. Brother Anaclet died in Rome on the 16th June, 1870.

● **We now come to BROTHER FLORIDE, who was the fourth Postulator General,**

who after 27 years of work for our Institute in France, was appointed Visitor to our establishments in the Papal States.

"From 1850 to 1870 Brother Floride undertook the work of Vicar or Visitor to our Italian establishments in the Papal States; from 1870 to 1880 he was Procurator General of our Institute to the Holy See and at the same time Postulator for the cause of beatification of our venerable Father, as well as Visitor of our French establishments in the States of the Church.

Such important posts must have caused him incessant labours. In addition to his daily work for our communities, he had to maintain constant contact with persons outside the Institute, either in connection with his post at the Papal Court, or in his dealings with the various Congregations.

He had also to maintain permanent correspondence with us, on a multitude of matters concerning the Institute, the beatification of our venerable Founder and the particular needs of our Brothers". (Obituary Notice).

It was Brother Floride's efforts which resulted in Pius IX's Decree on the heroicity of the virtues of John Baptist de La Salle, on 1st November 1873. The Pope held him in high esteem, as did the whole Institute, which elected him as one of the eight professed Directors to attend the General Assembly of the Institute in 1849, and from then on he attended every General Chapter.

He died a holy death in Rome on 3rd January 1880.